

Expensive Saving.

One of the lecturers at the "Plymouth School of Ethics," the other day, made the just remark that for the head of an average American family to seek to save money beyond a certain limit which ordinary prudence will suggest, may be for him to compel his household to live upon a distinctly lower level than the own which the best development of their powers demands. He may save a few dollars but he does it at the cost of a narrower outlook and range of interest for his wife and children. Take it in the simple matter of books and papers. They cost money, and it is money that it is easy to save simply by not spending it. But what a difference there is between the tone of a family which is accustomed to contact with the best thought of the brightest minds, and one which has no wider range of interest than that afforded by neighborhood gossip or the local newspaper! The table talk of the former will be bright, instructive and entertaining, covering a wide range of affairs, while that of the latter will be restricted to a narrow groove of personalitiet. Parents often wonder why their children find the forces which determine their intellectual and moral development outside the home. There is little room for wonder, if they did little to provide the food or stimulus for such growth in their own homes. It will surprise anyone, who takes the pains to look up the ancestry of prominent Americans to discover what a disproportionate number of them have come from ministers' families. It is the sons of ministers of the gospel who are occupying the chief places in American life today, from President Cleveland down. There is a reason for this. The writer well remembers a village minister, with a salary of six hundred dollars a year, who sent two sons to college, and the home from which they went was well supplied with the best literature, while the neighboring farmers, with two or three times the income of the minister, thought they could not afford to take papers or buy books, and that it was out of the question to send a boy to college. Of course the minister did not save anything, while the farmer did. We recall the quaint smile with which the good pastor used to say that he invested all his money in his boys. We happen to know that in that case it was such a good investment that those boys have become leaders in their professions, and have given the old gentleman with a glad heart more than all the money he could have saved would have come to at compound interest. But the men who thought they were saving money by putting it in a bank or buying land, instead of investing it in their own flesh and blood, have had little occasion to take pride in the advancement of their children. As the lecturer said, the fathers saved money at the cost of compelling their children to put up with second or third rate advantages.

That Boy's Evenings.

How shall the boy spend his evenings? Not an inconsequential question. The evening is the battle hour of the adve say, and many noble youth fall on his field. The boy is a restless being. To do nothing is a sheer impossibility. He is not made that way.

Something must attract and engage him. Can he find it in the home? Not as a rule. In the olden time home was a place of companionships and genial engagements. But now the father comes home tired, and glumly reads the daily paper. The mother is at some church meeting, club meeting, or busy with her domestic work. Everybody is occupied. And the boy has three hours on his hands before bedtime. On goes his hat, and out he steps into the street. The door of the theater is open, and the crowd pours in. The music of the dance-hall floats out. The scarlet woman walks the street. The saloon and billiard hall are doing a lively business. Other boys not so good as this one are also on the street. It is the old story. The boy is tempted and falls, and all because he did not know what to do with himself when the evening hour had come.

A word to the parents: Pay attention to your boy. Make home the most congenial place on earth. Stay at home yourself. Bring out the innocent games. Sing with him round the piano. Tell your latest joke. Study to give the boy no excuse for seeking the street.

A word to the church: Do more for the boys. Instead of closing your doors all the week, have them open for the young men. Form a company of Epworth Guards or a civic club. Put a gymnasium in the basement. Multiply and improve your sociables. Permit innocent games. Organize night classes. Open a reading room. Do something. Do everything to hold the boys.

A word to the boy himself: Watch out, my lad. The devil wants boys. He wants you. He has determined to have you if by any means you can be ruined. Make up your mind to disappoint him. The devil wrecks idle boys. Keep busy. Read entertaining books. Learn to play a musical instrument. Continue studies you dropped when you left school. Play proper games with your sister—or some other boy's sister. When you go out go to safe places. Some places refine and enlarge character. Go there. Go to no place which you could not take your mother or sister. Plan to help some boy who is in special peril. Lift up some poor fellow who is down. Don't be foolish, my boy. You cannot afford to sell out the future for a little present gaiety and folly. Determine to pass up to manhood unstained. Oh, that much more might be done to help the boys during the evening hours when so many go down!—Epworth Herald.

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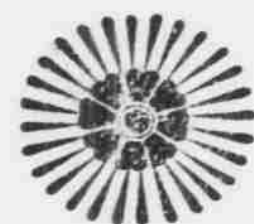
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